

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 13 and 20 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 13 and 20.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 14-25 are cancelled. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 10 and 13 and the drawings are amended. The features recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13 are fully supported by the specification, for example, on page 23, lines 21-25; page 24, line 24 - page 25, line 4 and Fig. 8. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Turner in the June 19 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to Figs. 13 and 20 for including reference characters that are allegedly not disclosed in the specification. As discussed during the interview, and acknowledged by Examiner Turner and recited in the Interview Summary, the objection to the drawings is obviated by the attached replacement sheets. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1, 2, 6 and 11 on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-87 of copending Application No. 10/577,987. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner hold this rejection in abeyance until all the prior art rejections are overcome.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0134536 to Takase et al. ("Takase").

As discussed during the interview, and acknowledged by Examiner Turner and recited in the Interview Summary, the objection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Takase is rendered moot by perfecting the claim of priority for this application to Japanese Application No.

2004-029771 filed on February 5, 2004. A verified translation is attached. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is rendered moot.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0186107 to Maston et al. ("Maston") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,080,503 to Schmid et al. ("Schmid") and U.S. Patent No. 6,030,480 to Face, Jr. et al. ("Face") and rejects claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maston, Schmid, Face and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0121601 to Tajima. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, and acknowledged by Examiner Turner and recited in the Interview Summary, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of amended independent claims 1 and 13. It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable.

The Office Action, on page 14, acknowledges that Maston, Schmid and Face fail to disclose or suggest, "an external force application step of applying an external force by an external force application means in a direction of mutually parting the pair of separators; and a heating step of heating the external force application means by the external heating means," as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13. Tajima is introduced to allegedly overcome the noted deficiencies in Maston, Schmid and Face.

As discussed during the interview, Tajima merely discloses a heated cutting unit 12 that cuts or melts the adhesive member 2 and then is followed by a non-heated separating unit 13 (connected to separating arm 15) that separates or parts the image display unit 1 from the support member 3. (See Tajima's Fig. 1 and paragraphs [0088]-[0089].) Tajima discloses a non-heated separating unit 13 which separates the image display unit 1 from the support member 3 rather than "an external force application step of applying an external force by an external force application means in a direction of mutually parting the pair of separators; and

a heating step of heating the external force application means by the external heating means," as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13. In Tajima, the separating unit 13 is not heated.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JSP/lmf

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Drawing Sheets
Verified Translation of Japanese Application

Date: July 6, 2009

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